

# South Wairarapa Update

July 26

Darlene Rastrick

Regional Commissioner –  
Central Region



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

WORK AND INCOME  
TE HIRANGA TANGATA



# MSD's role in South Wairarapa

**Employment  
Services**

**Training and  
Upskilling**

**Emergency  
Housing and  
Social Housing  
Register**

**Senior Services**

**Childcare  
Subsidies**

*"Nearly everyone will use  
MSD services during  
their lifetime"*



# District Insights – March 26

**363**

People receiving  
Jobseeker Support

**138**

People receiving  
Sole Parent Support

**189**

People receiving  
Supported Living  
Payments

**693**

People receiving a  
benefit

**537**

People have been on  
a benefit for more  
than one year

**3009**

People receiving NZ  
Superannuation



# Recent trends - (March 2026)

**8% ↑**

more people on  
Jobseeker than the  
same quarter last  
year

**82% ↑**

more people exited  
from a benefit into  
employment than  
the same quarter  
last year

**13.3% ↑**

more people have  
been on a benefit  
for over one year,  
compared to last  
year



# Employment – March quarter

**60**

South Wairarapa  
clients cancelled their  
benefit to go into  
employment in March  
quarter

**102**

Wairarapa clients  
secured employment  
in the March quarter  
with help from our  
team

**34**

Flexi-Wage

**6**

Mana in Mahi  
in March quarter





How we support  
people prepare for  
employment

We invest in programmes,  
courses and support for clients  
and employers

# What we fund in Wairarapa

## Employment

- Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
- Employment Placement Service
- Driver Licencing (multiple programmes)
- Youth Services
- He Poutama Rangatahi
- Community Job Coaching
- Skills for Industry Programmes
- Limited-Service Volunteers (NZDF)
- Disability Employment Services
- Workability Assessments
- Work Preparation Programmes

## Businesses

- Skills for Industry
- Flexi-Wage
- Mana in Mahi

## Clients

- Transition to Work (for clients)
- Course participation allowance
- Training Incentive Allowance

## Community

- Food provision
- Family and sexual violence response and coordination
- Building financial capability
- Heartlands Services
- Transition from Schools
- Community Participation
- Emergency Housing Navigators
- Ready to Rent Programmes







# Regional Workforce Trends

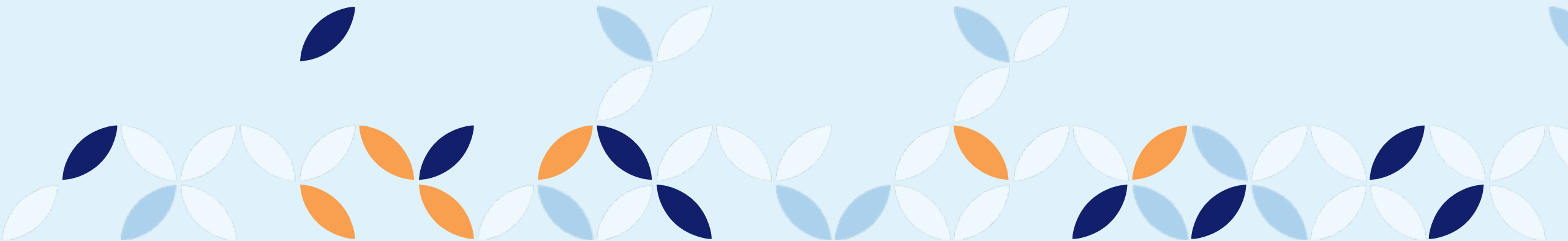


# Sectors Experiencing Growth

**Growth remains uneven but concentrated in key industries in Wairarapa**

**Sectors with strength are:**

- Agriculture/forestry/ farming
- Construction
- Accommodation + food services
- Health care and social assistance
- Administrative and support services



# Most In-Demand Skills

- Skilled trades and construction workers
- Healthcare professionals
- Primary industry workers

Growing demand for:

- Basic digital and technical skills

Strong expectation from employers for:

- Reliability
- Work readiness
- Communication
- Adaptability

